

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A hook device for suspending an object, comprising:

a case member having a stopping portion located at a rear side of the case member,

a hook main portion disposed in the case member to be rotatable between a store position and a use position, and having an upper portion, a lower portion rotationally attached to the case member, and an elastic member projecting rearwardly and upwardly from the lower portion to the upper portion, and

an engaging portion provided at the elastic member of the hook main portion to engage the stopping portion so that the hook main portion is stopped at the use position with a predetermined open angle, at least one of said stopping portion and said engaging portion having an inclined surface so that when a load is applied to the hook main portion in the use position in a direction such that the hook main portion further opens, the elastic member is urged in a direction that the stopping portion further engages the engaging portion to thereby prevent further opening of the hook main portion.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The hook device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising urging means attached to the case member for urging the hook main portion in a direction that the hook main portion opens, and a latch mechanism for holding the hook main

portion at a predetermined store position against an urging force of the urging means.

5. (currently amended) The hook device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stopping portion is located at a rear side of the case member, and said hook main portion has ~~a bottom portion~~ an end of the lower portion from which the elastic member projects rearwardly and upwardly.

6. (previously presented) The hook device as claimed in claim 5, wherein said hook main portion has a space between the bottom portion and the elastic member so that the elastic member is deformable toward the bottom portion.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The hook device as claimed in claim 7 1, wherein said engaging portion has an inwardly inclined surface relative to a radial line extending from a rotational axis of the hook main portion so that a rotational force of the hook main portion beyond the use portion is converted to a force for deforming the hook main portion outwardly.

9. (currently amended) The hook device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said stopping portion and said engaging portions have ~~same~~ similar inwardly inclined surfaces.

10. (new) The hook device as claimed in claim 8, wherein said hook main portion includes a hook portion at a rear side of the upper portion.